

State of Michigan



Twenty First Judicial District Court

6000 MIDDLEBELT ROAD • GARDEN CITY, MICHIGAN 48135-2499
PHONE: (734) 793-1680 • FAX: (734) 793-1681

RICHARD HAMMER
JUDGE

KRISTIN M. REMER
COURT CLERK/ADMINISTRATOR

Plan to Return to Full Capacity – Phase One

Administrative Order 2020 – 03

In accordance with Administrative Order 2020-14, effective May 6, 2020, and upon approval of the State Court Administrative Office (SCAO), the Chief Judge of the 21st District Court has verified through SCAO that the local health department has determined the gating criteria for Return to Full Capacity Phase One is satisfied as of June 8, 2020. Specifically:

1. There have been no COVID-19 confirmed or suspected cases in the court facility within a 14-day period; and,
 2. There is a downward trajectory of documented cases within a 14-day period; and,
 3. State and local orders restricting movement and/or requiring shelter-in-place have been rescinded or limited and the SCAO has determined that existing orders would not prevent the court from implementing Phase One requirements; and,
 4. The Chief Judge has verified and confirmed through SCAO that the regional health care facilities are able to treat all patients without crisis care.
- A. In order to protect the health and safety of employees and the public, the 21st District Court have enacted the following protections:
1. Employees will self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms. Employees who feel sick or have any COVID-19 symptoms will not report to work. Employees who feel sick or display symptoms at work will be sent home.¹
 2. Court employees who have self-identified as a vulnerable employee and are unable to return to work have been offered appropriate accommodations, including the ability to work remotely if their job lends itself to remote work.

¹ Guidance on COVID-19 symptoms is evolving rapidly. The most up-to-date information about symptoms of COVID-19 are available on the CDC website at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>

3. To the extent possible, court employees who are working remotely will be allowed the opportunity to work remotely.
4. Employees in court facilities will maintain social distancing of six feet at all times and wear masks when six-foot physical distance cannot be maintained. The court has taken the following steps to ensure proper social distancing and employee safety:
 - a. Placed physical barriers between workspaces that are not at least six feet apart.
 - b. Required employees to wear masks while in public spaces.
 - c. Required employees handling mail to wear masks and gloves.
 - d. Implemented staggered shifts of employees to reduce crowd size and the risk of people gathering at start and close times.
5. Employees will practice good hygiene through hand washing, frequent disinfecting of used items and surfaces, sneezing or coughing into a tissue or elbow, and avoiding touching their faces.
6. Employees will not travel for non-essential business.
7. Employees have been trained regarding COVID-19. The training included good hygiene practices, updated personnel policies, and safety controls at the court facilities.
8. Court facilities have posted signage emphasizing proper handwashing.
9. Shared equipment will be cleaned and sanitized daily. Examples of shared equipment include copiers, fax machines, and telephones used by more than one employee during a single shift or in consecutive shifts. This equipment should be wiped down with disinfectant or a disinfectant wipe between uses.
10. The court is following the CDC guidance on cleaning and disinfecting if the facility is exposed to COVID-19.
11. The court has developed a contact tracing policy and is prepared to implement contact tracing procedures after receiving notification that the court facility has had confirmed exposure to COVID-19. These procedures will help the court identify individuals who may have been exposed to COVID-19 and will identify exposure locations that need to be cleaned and disinfected pursuant to CDC guidelines.

B. The 21st District Court is enacting the following measures related to public entry into Court Facilities:

1. The public will be screened by security personnel prior to entering the Court Facility and may be subject to a no-contact thermometer temperature check. They

will be asked to answer questions to screen for COVID-19, including, but are not limited to the following:

- a. Do you have a fever greater than 100.4 degrees?
- b. Do you have a cough or worsening cough (excluding chronic cough due to known medical reason)?
- c. Do you have shortness of breath?
- d. Do you have at least two of the following symptoms:
 - Fever
 - Chills
 - Repeated shaking with chills
 - Muscle pain
 - Headache
 - Sore throat
 - New loss of taste or smell
- e. Have you had any close contact in the last 14 days with someone with a COVID-19 diagnosis?
- f. Have you traveled internationally or outside of Michigan in the last 14 days?

Any individual responding “yes” to the screening questions will not be allowed to enter the courthouse until they can pass the screening questions. Screening personnel will notify the court of any individual that does not make it past screening. The court will accept documents for filing from the person. If the person was scheduled to appear as a party a court proceeding, the court will work to reschedule the hearing/trial to either a remote proceeding or to a future date when the person may pass courthouse screening. The court will provide appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) to any personnel responsible for in-person screening.

- C. In order to facilitate the essential business of the court is enacting the following measures related to court proceedings:
1. Proceedings will be conducted virtually to the maximum extent possible, consistent with Administrative Order No. 2020-6.
 2. In-person court proceedings will be limited to no more than 10 people and for essential hearings only.
 3. Members of the public are required to wear face masks to the extent they can medically tolerate it. They will not be provided by the court prior to entry.
 4. Pursuant to MCR 8.110(c), members of the public or staff who refuse to wear required face coverings or adhere to social distancing requirements may be asked to leave the court facility.

5. Any member of the public who is asked to leave the court facility will be offered an opportunity to conduct court business virtually, attend court proceedings virtually, file documents in an alternative manner, or confer with court administration to determine alternate arrangements for accessing the court.

The 21st District Court is regularly verifying with SCAO and monitoring local public health conditions related to COVID-19 and is continuously evaluating data to assess their readiness to proceed to Phase Two of Court capacity, which is anticipated to be June 29, 2020.

Date: 6/8/20


Richard Hammer, Chief District Judge